

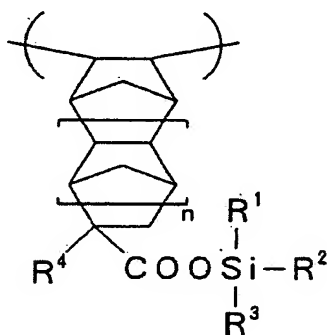
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A copolymer comprising a structural unit represented by the following general formula (1), a structural unit derived from ethylene and a structural unit derived from an  $\alpha$ -olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, and a structural unit derived from a nonconjugated polyene optionally used:

[Chemical 1]

General formula (1)



wherein n is 0 or 1, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> mean, independently of one another, a hydrogen atom, halogen atom or monovalent organic group.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the content of the structural unit represented by the general formula (1) is 0.01 to 30 mol%, the content of the structural unit derived from ethylene is 40 to 90 mol%, the content of the structural unit derived from the  $\alpha$ -olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms is 5 to 60 mol%, and the content of the structural unit derived from the nonconjugated polyene is 0 to 12 mol%.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> in the general formula (1) ~~[[is]]~~ are, independently of one another, a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

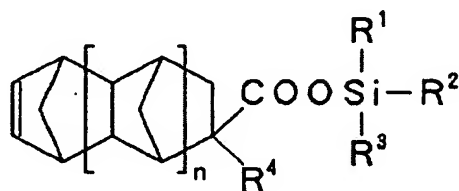
Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 3 and 6~~, wherein R<sup>4</sup> in the general formula (1) is a methyl group.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 6 and 7~~, wherein n in the general formula (1) is 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a copolymer, which comprises ~~the step of~~ addition-polymerizing a compound represented by the following general formula (3), ethylene and an  $\alpha$ -olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, and a nonconjugated polyene optionally used:

[Chemical 3]

General formula (3)



wherein n is 0 or 1, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> mean,

independently of one another, a hydrogen atom, halogen atom or monovalent organic group.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carboxyl group-containing copolymer, which comprises ~~the step of~~ subjecting an ester moiety of the copolymer according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 6 to 8~~ claim 1 to a hydrolyzing treatment.